



Seeing the Capital Differently

Jewish History & Religion

Welcome to *CityThemes*

By printing this leaflet you have decided to discover, or rediscover, the sights and delights of **London** in a different way. We hope that you enjoy your explorations of our fascinating and historical capital city.

This leaflet has been designed to allow you to explore as the mood takes you. Both well-known and lesser-known attractions are included and they are randomly listed so that you plan your own itinerary and visit as many or as few as you wish.

Please note:- some places restrict entry and ask for prior application either in writing or by telephone. This is indicated where known. Others may change opening days and hours with little warning – it may be worth checking by phone if they are off the beaten track.

A very brief description of the reason for the choice of site is given but because of space it is not possible to include much detail. Again a telephone call to the site may help you to decide on whether a visit is worthwhile. Remember there may be other items that interest you at the same site.

Themes are constantly being updated and new titles added so please keep looking at our website or get in touch with us by e-mail or letter. We welcome your comments especially if you feel that some site should be included or details are incorrect/inaccurate. Contact details are

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Enjoy Your Explorations

Imperial War Museum

Lambeth Road, Lambeth, SE1

020 7416 5320 www.iwm.org.uk

transport: Lambeth North & Elephant & Castle u/g; buses 1,12,45,53,59,63,68,100,159,168,171,172,176,188,344, C10

facilities: library; licensed café; bookshop

opening: daily 10.00-18.00

admission free

the museum covers the history of warfare especially the 1st and 2nd World Wars and has one of the world's foremost art collections illustrating the subject.

the Holocaust Exhibition is a permanent collection of artefacts, films, documents, photographs & survivor testaments showing Nazi persecution of the Jews & other groups during the 2nd World War. This part of the museum is not recommended for children under 14 years

Jewish Museum - Camden Town

129-131 Albert Street, Camden, NW1

020 7284 1997 www.jewishmuseum.org

transport: Camden Town u/g; buses 24,27,29,31,88,134, 168,214,253,274,C2

facilities: audio guide; disabled access & wcs; refreshments; shop selling books; souvenirs & replicas; group tours by arrangement

opening: Mon, Thur 10.00-16.00, Sun 10.00-17.00;

closed Bank Holidays & Jewish Festivals

admission charge

this museum covers the history and culture of the Jews especially the community in London and the Jewish religion. Amongst the collection of ritual objects are a 16th century Venetian Ark of the Law, embroidered silk mantles and prayer books. There are marriage contracts on painted parchment, wedding rings and 17th-19th century portraits of individuals who have been successful in different fields

Jewish Museum - Finchley

80 East End Road, N3

020 8349 1143 www.jewmusm.ort.org

transport: Finchley Central then 12 mins walk; buses 82, 143,232,260

facilities: disabled access to History Gallery; disabled parking bay; café; sales desk; tours for groups

opening: Mon-Thur 10.30-17.00, Sun 10.30-16.30;

closed Bank Holidays & Jewish Festivals

admission charge

this branch of the Museum concentrates on Jewish social history, immigration and settlement in London especially in the East End. It also looks at experiences during the 2nd World War

Ben Uri Gallery

106a Boundary Road, St John's Wood, NW8

020 7604 3991 www.benuri.ort.org

transport: St John's Wood & Swiss Cottage u/g, South Hampstead rail; buses 13,46,82,113,139,187,189

opening: Mon-Fri 10.00-17.30, Sun noon-16.00

admission free

here you can see a collection of Jewish art from artists such as Bomberg, Gertler, Epstein, Kitaj, Kossof and Auerbach

Czech Memorial Scrolls Centre

Westminster Synagogue, Rutland Gardens, SW7

020 7584 3741

transport: Knightbridge u/g; buses 9,10,52

opening: Tue, Thur 10.00-16.00

admission free

the Centre outlines the story of the distribution of the Torah Scrolls to communities throughout the world. The Scrolls had been seized by the Nazis during the 2nd World War but were recovered from Czechoslovakia soon after the end of the war. Many were restored before distribution. Several of the scrolls have been preserved in this Centre

Brick Lane Market

Brick Lane, Cheshire Street and Sclater Street, E1

020 7377 8963 www.eastlondonmarkets.com

transport: Shoreditch u/g; Liverpool Street u/g & rail; buses 8,26,35,47,48,67,78,149,242,253

opening: Sun 08.00-14.00

this East End market is well-known for its Cockney and Jewish stallholders

Hatton Garden, EC1

transport: Chancery Lane u/g, Farringdon u/g & rail;

buses 8,25,45,242,341

this is the centre of the diamond and jewellery business in London. A great deal of the trade is still controlled by Hasidic Jews who can sometimes be seen in frock coats and black hats with flowing beards and sidelocks. No 87 is the London Diamond Club

Bevis Marks Synagogue (Spanish & Portuguese Synagogue)

between Bury St & Heneage Lane, Bevis Marks, EC3

020 7626 1274

transport: Liverpool Street u/g & rail; buses 8,11,26,35, 42,47,48,78,100,133,149,153,214,242,344

opening: Mon-Wed, Sun 11.30-13.00; closed Thurs & Fri

admission charge

Britain's oldest surviving synagogue dates from 1702 and was built by Sephardic Jew after a copy of a Portuguese one in Amsterdam. It was the second synagogue to be built after the readmission of Jews to England during the Commonwealth Interregnum. (They had been expelled 350 years previously after persecution). On the corner of Creechurch Lane & Bury Street is a plaque marking the site of the first synagogue.

the wooden Ark has the Ten Commandments written in Hebrew while above it in Hebrew is the inscription "Know before Whom Thou Standest". The Ark contains the sacred scrolls of the Pentateuch (the 5 books of Moses written on parchment in Hebrew). The chandeliers and candlesticks are of 18th century brass and came from Amsterdam. The hanging silver Sanctuary lamp has been burning perpetually since 1876

Four Per Cent Dwellings

Flower and Dean Estate, north of Wentworth Street, E1

transport: Aldgate East u/g, Liverpool Street u/g & rail; buses 8,26,35,47,48,67,78,149,242,253

only the original arch still remains of a scheme by the Anglican clergyman and social reformer, Canon Samuel Barnett (1844-1913), for housing the poor of the East End while guaranteeing 4% dividend for his Jewish investors. Barnett also founded the Whitechapel Art Gallery (1897) and Toynbee Hall (opened 1884)

Mile End Waste building

Mile End Road, E1/E3

transport: Whitechapel & Stepney Green u/g; buses 25, 106,253,309

this neo-classical former department store with central domes and a tower had to be built round a 2-storey shop because the Jewish watchmaker who owned the shop refused to sell to his Gentile neighbour!

Golders Green Cemetery and Crematorium

Hoop Lane, Golders Green, NW11
020 8455 2374

transport: Golders Green u/g; buses 83,102,183,H2
opening: daily 09.00-17.00

founded in 1895 the eastern side is reserved for Orthodox Sephardic Jews. Here you will find flat tombstones with the body placed so that the feet point towards Jerusalem. The upright headstones indicate the resting places of Reform Jews

New West End Synagogue

St Petersburg Place, Bayswater, W2
020 7229 2631

transport: Bayswater & Queensway u/g, Paddington rail & u/g; buses 12,70,94

opening: Mon-Thur 10.00-13.00
this synagogue dates from 1877

Holocaust Stone

Rotten Row, Hyde Park, W1

transport: Knightsbridge & Hyde Park Corner u/g; buses 2,8,9,10,14,16,19,22,36,38,52,73,74,82,137

placed here in 1983 these stones commemorate the millions of Jews who were sent to the gas chambers by the Nazi between 1942 and 1945. The two boulders are surrounded by silver birch trees and have a quote from the Book of Lamentations carved into them

Gilbert Collection

Somerset House, Strand, WC2R
020 7420 9400 www.gilbert-collection.org.uk

transport: Temple, Embankment & Covent Garden u/g, Charing Cross & Waterloo u/g & rail; buses 1,6,9,11,13,15,23,26,59,68,76,77A,91,168,171,172,176,188,341; boat Savoy & Embankment Piers

facilities: audio guide plus special one for children & families; disabled access & wheelchair hire (please book in advance); Summer Café & bar & restaurant; shop for gifts, silverware & jewellery; tours on Thur & Sat 14.30 (booking 020 7420 9410)

opening: daily 10.00-18.00, (last admission 17.15)
admission charge includes free audio guide & magnifying glass. Free after 16.30

the Jewish Torah Crown of gold is decorated with precious stones and gold eagles holding bells in their beaks. It is one of only two existing in the world. The Torah Crown motive is used to adorn sacred teaching scrolls of Judaic worship

Spitalfields Heritage Centre

19 Princes Street, E1
020 7247 5352

transport: Liverpool Street u/g & rail; buses 8,11,26,35,42,47,48,78,100,133,149,153,214,242,344

one of the oldest synagogues in London (1869) it was built by Polish Jews at the rear of a Huguenot silk merchant's home. It has a wooden Ark and pulpit. Unfortunately the building is in a very delicate state so is rarely open except to groups by arrangement

Liberal Jewish Synagogue

28 St John's Wood Road, NW8
020 7286 5181

transport: St John's Wood u/g (10mins walk), Marylebone rail (15mins walk); buses 13,46,82,113,139,187,189,274
founded in 1911 this synagogue was severely damaged during the 2nd World War. Originally repaired it was eventually decided to rebuild it completely between 1988 and 1991. Only the original portico was retained. Internally it is octagonal with Jerusalem stone walls. A three ton stone Holocaust memorial by Anish Kapoor stands in the foyer. The insets on the bronze gates of the Ark are by Amit Schur

Raoul Wallenberg

Great Cumberland Place, W1

transport: Marble Arch & Edgware Road u/g; buses 2,6,7,13,15,16,23,30,36,74,82,98,113,139,189,274

this statue, erected in 1988, shows the Swedish diplomat with his back to a wall made of 100,000 Schutzpasses (bogus passport documents), each one depicting a Hungarian Jew that he saved from the Holocaust. Wallenberg was arrested in 1945 and disappeared but it is still not known if he is dead or alive

Wiener Library

4 Devonshire Street, W1
020 7636 7247

transport: Regent's Park u/g; buses 18,27,30,88,C2
opening: by appointment only

this library was established by Dr Alfred Wiener (1885-1964), journalist and one time national secretary of the Jewish Civil Rights Group in Germany. He began collecting in the 1920s and the library now has 60,000 books, 10,000 photographs, 2 million press cuttings and many other documents including eyewitness accounts of the pogrom, anti-Semitic literature, Nazi memorabilia and accounts of the Holocaust

Jewish Memorial Council

25 Enford Street, W1
020 7724 7778

transport: Edgware Road u/g, Marylebone u/g & rail; buses 2,13,18,27,30,74,82,113,139,189,274

this bookshop stocks Jewish literature

Victoria and Albert Museum

Cromwell Road, SW7
020 7942 2000/0870 442 0808 24hr information
www.vam.ac.uk

transport: South Kensington u/g; buses 14,49,70,74,345,C1

facilities: disabled access and wcs; library; café and restaurant; shop; tours

opening: daily 10.00-17.45, Wed 10.00-22.00
admission free

Britain's National Museum of Art and Design was created to accommodate the contemporary works manufactured for the 1851 Great Exhibition and it has been collecting fine and applied art from all countries, styles and periods ever since. Among its treasures are examples of Jewish ecclesiastical plate and a Torah mantle from an Amsterdam synagogue

St Botolph-without-Aldgate

Aldgate High Street, EC3
020 7283 1670

transport: Aldgate u/g, Liverpool Street u/g & rail, Fenchurch Street rail; buses 15,40,42,67,78,100,253

opening: Mon-Fri 10.00-15.00

outside the church the 1985 statue 'Sanctuary' by Naomi Blake acts as a reminder of the time when the church provided a refuge for holocaust survivors in the 1940s. It shows a seated figure sitting under a large drooping leaf with the inscription 'To all victims of oppression'

Liverpool Street Station, EC2

transport: Liverpool Street u/g & rail; buses 8,11,26,35, 42,43,47,48,78,100,133,149,153,214,242,344

a new sculpture was placed in 2003 on the concourse of the station. Entitled 'Für das Kind (For the Child)' it commemorates the Kindertransports that allowed 10000 children to escape from Nazi persecution to Great Britain in 1938/9. It marks the place of their arrival from Harwich. It is a large glass box suitcase with, inside, the very last personal belongings given by parents to their children - prayer books, diaries, dolls, photographs, coins, aprons. Next to the case stands the statue of a millennium girl, a descendant of one of children

Anne Frank

British Library forecourt, Euston Road, NW1

transport: King's Cross/St Pancras & Euston u/g & rail; buses 10,20,73,91

this life-size bronze bust 'A Triumph of Spirit' by Doreen Kern, marks the 70th anniversary of the birth of the German Jewish girl famous for her Diary, a symbol of Jewish resistance and courage during the 2nd World War. Nearby is a tree planted in 1998 to commemorate her and all children killed in wars and conflicts in the 20th century

Golders Green, NW11

transport: Golders Green u/g; buses 83,102,183,H2

most of the shops are kosher in this community of Orthodox Jews

St Botolph's-without-Bishopsgate

Bishopsgate, EC2
020 7588 3388

transport: Liverpool Street u/g & rail; buses 8,11,26,35, 42,47,48,78,100,149,242,344

opening: Mon-Fri 08.00-17.30

the drinking fountain on the church railings commemorates Frederick Mocatta a 19th century Jewish philanthropist

Fieldgate Street Great Synagogue

Fieldgate Street, E1

transport: Aldgate East & Whitechapel u/g; buses 25, 205,254

opening: unfortunately it is not accessible to the public
built in 1899 this is one of the few active synagogues in an area that was once predominately Jewish. It stands surrounded by the Islamic Centre with one of the largest mosques in Britain

A great deal of care has been taken in collecting the information in this leaflet but *CityThemes* cannot be held responsible for the accuracy of that information. It can cover only a few of the many interesting sites to be found in London and therefore must not be considered a definitive guide.

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